

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 through 15, 27, 41, and 65-67 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 15, 27, 41, 65, 66, and 67 being independent.

Claims 1-6, 10, 13-15, 27, 41, 65, and 66 have been amended and Claim 67 has been added. Applicant submits that support for the amendments and the new claim can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claim 13 was objected to due to an informality. Applicant submits that the amendments to that claim have obviated the basis for the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claims 1, 10, 13-15, 27, 41, 65, and 66 stand rejected under 35.U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,330,672 (Shur). Claims 2-8, 9, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35.U.S.C. §103(a) as being variously unpatentable over Shur alone or in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,233,684 (Stefik) or U.S. Patent No. 6,131,162 (Yoshiura, et al). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in Claim 1, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of, when registering data, discriminating timing to apply electronic watermark data to the data among processes regarding the data and registering the data so that the electronic watermark is applied at the discriminated timing. In contrast, Shur merely discloses that an electronic watermark can be embedded in an arbitrary position (i.e., at an arbitrary timing) of a bit-stream of data. That patent does not disclose or suggest at least the features of discriminating a timing

to apply an electronic watermark among processes regarding data being registered and the registering the data so that the electronic watermark is applied at the discriminated timing.

The other cited art also fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features and therefore does not remedy the deficiencies of Shur.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention recited in Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. Independent Claims 15, 27, 41, 65, and 66 recite similar features and are patentable for reasons similar to Claim 1. The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

New Claim 67 recites, among others, the feature of instructing timing of applying an electronic watermark to data among processes regarding the data. Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least that feature.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection, withdrawal of the objection and rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 721-5427. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian L. Klock", written over a horizontal line.

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